

Corps will Reduce Missouri River Water Releases

Washington, DC (August 8) - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will lower levels on the Missouri River, based on rulings by the U.S. District Court for Minnesota, and consistent with previously announced intentions. In its latest ruling the District Court stressed it was confident that the Corps would expediently and fully comply with its obligations under the law.

The Corps has previously indicated that it would reduce releases from the Missouri River Mainstem System to 21,000 cfs by 10:00 p.m. EDT on Aug. 12. Releases would remain at that level until Aug. 15, when the 2000 Biological Opinion then requires releases to be increased to 25,000 cfs until Sept. 1. After Sept. 1 the Corps would operate the Mainstem System in accordance with the 2003 Annual Operating Plan.

BG William T. Grisoli, the Corps' Northwestern Division Commander, said that the Corps would immediately be talking with river users in order to determine whether next Tuesday's scheduled reduction in System water releases could be expedited without compromising public safety requirements and private property.

Corps staff will begin to contact river users today, including commercial navigation interests and marina operators, to determine if flows could be reduced prior to next Tuesday without adversely affecting public safety and property. The results of those contacts will be used to determine if releases can be reduced sooner than August 12th.